

AMERICAN EAGLE TELLS WHY HE SYMBOLIZES PATRIOTISM

Mythology and History Replete With References to His Use, but Many Errors Have Become Common

By REMSEN CRAWFORD.

AFTER visiting the bird house and listening to the shrieks and screams of parrots, macaws and cockatoos until my ears fairly ached with their frantic, discordant notes it was a great relief to get out into the Arcadian delights of Bronx Park again.

Descending a great cemented stairway I took a road which led down into a heavily timbered ravine. From a little way ahead of me came the merry shouts of a band of children. Drawing near I found that they had all gathered around the tall iron cages where the eagles are kept.

The centre of attraction was a large American eagle, who, seemingly aware of the homage paid him by this gathering of little patriots, had stretched his wings and was showing off to full advantage while basking in the warm, bright sunshine. Children who frequent the park have named this eagle George Washington, and it is indeed an inspiring sight when they gather around the "proud bird of freedom," chattering like magpies in many different languages.

Teaches Children Patriotism.

Pretty soon I fell to thinking of what the eagle really stands for in American life. I wondered why this gray-headed fellow of the falcon family had ever been adopted as our national symbol; when and where Uncle Sam first picked him up; why so little is known about him in his wild, native state, and I decided there and then to ask George Washington a few questions and draw him out about himself and his family and about eagles in general.

"You appear to be enjoying a day with the children," I remarked, as I drew nearer the great iron cage. "Oh, well," the proud bird replied, "it's an everyday thing here in Bronx Park, and it's about all there is for me to do, as I try to make the best of it. Then, too, these little folk seem to catch a thrill of patriotism from me, and as the boys will come day, maybe, have to shoulder their muskets and go with me against the nation's foe, I like to feel that they learn to love Uncle Sam when they come here from day to day and look upon the like of me."

"You see, many of these children, or their parents, come from foreign shores. Some of them can even speak our language, but they have learned that I typify the ideals which their parents sought in coming to America, so let them come on. They are a trifle noisy at times, but I don't mind. I am always glad to welcome them."

"Do you know," said I, "while I have been here for more than a century, the emblem of the United States very little is known of me in the homes of the American people?"

As he said this the old eagle cocked his gray head and looked at me with an air of pained regret.

"Do you know that there is a whole lot of silly talk about me and my family which ought to be corrected?" he went on. "Really the tales that have been told, the fiction that has been scattered about the American eagle would make any self-respecting bird bristle with rage."

"In the first place, I wish you would correct one fallacious notion that has long been fixed upon the American people's mind—that I am a bald-headed eagle. Nonsense! There's my head! Just give it the once over and tell me honestly if you see anything bald about it. I know that it is white and stands out in relief against the brown feathers which cover my body, but my head is as well covered with feathers as that of any bird that lives. The buzzard's head is bald, but not the eagle's."

"Another thing about me ought to be corrected. One hears it all over the United States that an eagle will steal sheep—yes, just sail down on a flock and pick up lambs and carry them off in the clutches of its talons to some rocky cliff for a big feast. It may be true that the eagles of England played such tricks, and I believe it is told in history that the eagles of that country were once a price was put on their heads by the King, so many lambs did they devour. And it may also be true that the golden eagle, that big fellow of our Rocky Mountain country, will rob a sheepfold. But the American eagle, the bald eagle, a sheep-stealer? Never!"

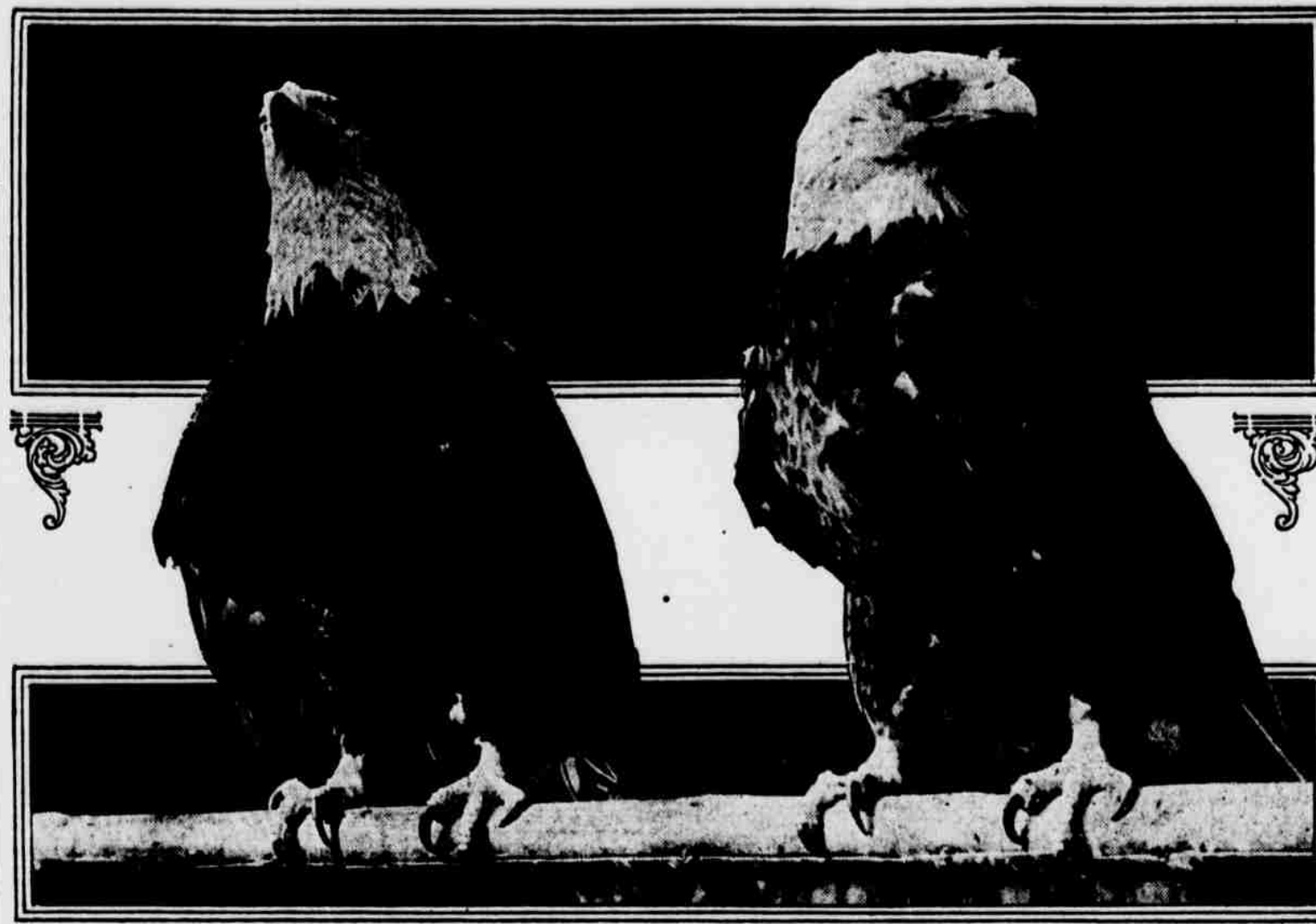
George Washington tossed back his hoary head and snapped his great beak in keenest indignation at the mere thought.

Not a Middle-class Bird.

"If the American people had ever taken any pains to find out anything about me," he resumed, "which they have not, they might learn that the so-called bald eagle lives mostly along the seacoast and lives upon fish which he catches himself with great difficulty, unless he should find one now and then cast up on shore. These people might also learn that we are very harmless, inoffensive tribe of birds; that we are exclusive and would rather be left alone; that we never lay accounts for the security of the family; and that instead of being mediocres or dandies we are really quite the opposite."

"Pray tell me then," I said, "why have eagles so often been taken as the emblem of warlike people? Why have your kind been pictured on standards or moulded in silver and gold and carried aloft before the bravest armies of the world to lead them into battle?"

"Oh, well," replied the eagle, drawing down his wings and coming over near me as if to get confidential, "you see all that worship of eagles started away back in the days of the Etruscans. They were the first people to adopt the eagle as a symbol of royal power, and they were the first to carry



The real American Eagle as recognized by W. T. Hornaday.

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the eagle's image as a standard at the head of their armies.

"From the time of Marius the eagle was the favorite emblem of the Roman republic and was the only standard of its legions. They represented the bird with outspread wings, and it was usually in silver until the reign of Hadrian, who made it of gold. Napoleon adopted the eagle for the emblem of Imperial France, but it was not used as such under the Bourbons. Later the eagles of France were restored by a decree of Louis Napoleon January 1, 1852."

"The double-headed eagle such as the Prussians use on their standards to-day was formerly in use by the Byzantine emperors to indicate, according to legend, their right to the empire both of the east and the west. This emblem was adopted in the fourteenth century by the German Emperor, and it afterward appeared on the arms of Russia. This double-headed, two-faced scalcawag is the bird I've got to fight next, and believe me, I'm hungry for the fray."

Just here the interview was broken up for a time by a deep, low, sepulchral sound, "Hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo!" which came resounding from out the darkened barn beyond the big cage, and which sent cold shivers through me as I thought of Shakespeare's couplet:

"On top whereof eye dwelt the ghostly owl,
Shrieking his baleful note."

"The silly owl is always trying to scare somebody," observed my befeathered friend, George Washington, "and he's a wise kazoob, too, believe me, for he always picks his time for doing that stunt. He knows there is a bunch of little children out here, and he makes that noise to frighten them away. You will notice that they are already leaving, one by one, pretending they are not frightened."

"Now, to resume: Those double-headed eagles of Germany have no terror for me. The eagles of France and the lion of Great Britain have already found the stable where the Kaiser keeps his goat, and pretty soon I'll be over the top and there won't be a pin feather left to tell the sad fate of those two-headed chickens the Prussians call eagles. I know how they came to be adopted. The German emperors took them as a symbol, assuming that they were the successors of the old Roman emperors. What arrogance and audacity!"

"Now that you have told me with the accuracy of history how the imperial eagles of Europe came to be adopted as emblems of power, suppose you tell me how you, the so-called bald eagle of America, came to be picked up by Uncle Sam and put on his coat of arms."

I asked this because I knew that very few children, or grown persons either, for that matter, in the United States know the history of our national eagle emblem.

"Well," George Washington answered, "the very first time that my family of eagles came to be used in connection with the American people was in 1774, when Massachusetts stamped my image on a copper penny. Of course that was soon after the Americans got careless about spilling tea in Boston, and the republic was first being cradled. So far as is known the Continental Army had no eagle to lead it, though it may be that some of the regiments indulged in such a sad fad."

Bird of Freedom's History.

"Late in the afternoon of July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution appointing a committee to select some device to be used as a great seal for the Government. The Declaration of Independence had just been signed at 2 o'clock on the same day, and the committee appointed to do the seal consisted of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Mr. J. Adams and Mr. Jefferson, all of whom had been on the committee which drafted the Declaration of Independence."

"That was the starting point of our national seal, but it was not adopted until a chap named William Barton the son of a prominent preacher in Philadelphia, came along with a drawing, and this drawing showed one of my family, the so-called bald eagle, holding a bunch of arrows in one of his talons and a sprig of olive in the other, his wings outspread and the words 'E Pluribus Unum' engraved around the eagle's head."

"This design for the great seal of the United States of America was approved by Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress. My family of eagles owe to these two men the credit for having thus distinguished us. Why, for their design was adopted by the Congress on June 20, 1782, and the eagle has been the bird of liberty and union and freedom ever since."

Ben Franklin's Joke.

"Were you ever told that Dr. Benjamin Franklin was opposed to adopting you as the national bird; that he made fun of you and said you looked too much like a turkey?" I asked.

"Oh, yes," sighed George Washington, "my forefathers have often laughed about that. But Dr. Franklin was a funny old scout in his day, and really didn't take himself seriously at times. Why, he used to amuse his wonderful imagination by writing funny epigrams about his dead friends. But he was a good old scout, just the same, and if he were alive to-day he wouldn't be ashamed of the American eagle, you bet."

"Let me read you what he wrote his daughter when the badge of the Order of the Cincinnati was made in France in 1784," said I as I remembered that I had with me some notes from Bigelow's "Life of Franklin." The eagle assumed, so I read as follows:

"For my part I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his

living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead tree where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk, and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him."

"With all this injustice he is never in good case; but like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing, he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides, he is a rank coward. The little kingbird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district."

"I am on this account, not displeased that the figure is not known as a bald eagle, but looks more like a turkey. For, in truth, the turkey is, in comparison, a much more respectable bird, and withal, a true original native of America. He is a bird of courage and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on."

Eagle's Courage Assured.

"He, ha, ha!" laughed George Washington until his feathers fairly shook. "Now, isn't that just like Benjamin Franklin! Well, that's been over a hundred years ago, and we have been through six wars and no telling how many scuffles with the Indians, and the eagle 'bird' has been right there, and nobody has ever yet heard of his losing one single feather in a fight."

"And I wish Benjamin Franklin was alive to-day and could see those boys in khaki going over to France, every one of them wearing buttons with the bald eagle on it, and I wish Dr. Franklin could know how the lads all love to squeeze those buttons just for luck because the eagle bird is there, and I wish Dr. Franklin were alive to learn pretty soon that those chaps have jumped the back fence of the Kaiser's shack in Berlin and driven every double-headed eagle out of Prussia and Germany—but what's the use? Dr. Franklin meant well even if he did compare us with a silly, conceited turkey gobble."

George Washington added that he would not ask me to take his word alone as to the courage of eagles, and that he would be glad to have me consult the authorities on the subject. He suggested among others Dr. William

T. Hornaday, director of the Zoological Park. Sure enough, in Dr. Hornaday's book on ornithology the eagle is set down as being a bird of approved courage.

That point being settled, I asked my feathered friend if he had ever heard some of the toasts that are drunk to his good health.

"Plenty of them," and the grim old bird seemed to smile himself back into a softer humor. "I've heard in mind that I am on every button of the soldier boys, and they are the chaps that drink my health. Everybody has taken a crack of his wits at the eagle bird, but I think about the best of the toasts was the one an Irishman got off:

"And here's to the American eagle; Proud bird of Freedom, all hail! When no man could ever invade, Or throw salt on his beautiful tail."

"And that was a good short story about the American eagle that H. G. Wells wrote," continued George Washington, his good humor completely restored. "He tells of how some of our blue-jackets on a battleship anchored off Morro Castle, in the harbor of Havana, took a bald eagle which they had aboard ship for a mascot, trimmed him up like a fighting cock and won all the money at a chicken fight from the rich Spaniards of Cuba."

The Spaniards had advertised a proud Spanish gamecock and had offered to put him against anything with feathers. The Yankee sailors took them at their word, and trimming the old eagle up and painting him over to look like a disheveled old rooster they threw him into the pit and began to cover bets which the Spaniards offered at great odds.

A Figure in Mythology.

"The gamecock made a pass at the eagle and flung one craft through the outer edge of his neck. At the sight of a spurt of blood from this wound the Spaniards shouted with joy and laid more money on the gamecock. The same little chicken made another pass at the eagle and the big bird simply drew back and leaped upon the daring gamecock, fastening its neck to the ground with one of his powerful talons and with the other jerking the rooster's head off and tossing it out of the pit."

"Pretty good fiction, all that sort of stuff," resumed my aquiline friend,

"but I like better the real mythology about eagles. It is recorded that the eagle was the sacred bird of the Hindu Vishnu and of the Greek Zeus."

"You can read in the encyclopaedia that in the Roman ceremony of apotheosis an eagle ascended from the burning catafalque and was believed to bear the soul of the deceased to Olympus. In Scandinavian mythology the eagle was believed to be the bird of greatest wisdom, and in nearly all countries where the eagle has figured in heraldry its image has been stamped on gold coins."

"I can't very generally known, but we have a coin in our own United States money called an eagle, and yet if you were to offer a man an eagle to-day in payment for anything he would think you were kidding him, so ignorant are our own people about

their affairs. The coin is the \$10 gold piece, and it was the first piece of money that was ever taken from the mint with the eagle on it in the name of the United States."

"That was in 1795, the act authorizing this coin having been passed by Congress in 1792. Very recently they put putting the eagle on our silver money, the new dimes and half dollars having as a substitute a bundle of sticks representing unity and strength."

"I looked about me and saw that the children had all gone; that the park was growing shadowy with the slanting of the sun in the western sky. Lifting my hat in respect I bade George Washington, the idol of the children, the mascot of Uncle Sam, the beloved talisman of you and me—good night!"

HOLY LAND'S FUTURE

Continued from First Page.

both the Old and New Testaments, has been restored to the civilized world.

"But I wish to sound a note of warning to my coreligionists on the one hand and on the other strongly emphasize to all my American fellow citizens that certain positive facts should not be overlooked at this time. I believe that the leaders of the Zionists have always perceived that it would be impossible to have all the Jews return to Palestine, and that the others who hold to that Utopia will soon be disillusioned."

"It is almost unnecessary to refer to the fact that it is economically impossible to settle thirteen million people upon the narrow and impoverished lands which were the ancient soil of our people. But this is not what I wish to emphasize. This great fact has vital significance to me and, I believe, to a majority of those of my faith in America is that we are 100 per cent. Americans, and wish to remain so, irrespective of the fact that some of our blood is Jewish and some of our clay is German, Russian or Polish. To us and our children America too is veritably a holy land."

"We have now come to a great crisis in the history of the world. The essential thing for us is to fight for universal peace as a basis for a practical world brotherhood. This great result is not only possible; it is necessary if civilization is to endure. Let me ask my coreligionists, face to face and heart to heart, how many of you would be willing to forewear the great duty we have here and the great task which history gives us of being true, real, unalloyed American citizens in this time of resplendent ideals and momentous deeds in order to devote your entire lives to the upbuilding of Hebrew institutions in Palestine? I for one do not see that it is at all necessary to ignore the lesser in order to serve the greater purpose."

Jews Good Americans.

"Let me repeat most emphatically, we Jews in America are Jews in religion and Americans in nationality. It is through America and her institutions that we shall work out our part in bringing better ideals and morals and sounder principles of policy to the whole world. Likewise the Jews of the British Empire, that is probably 29 per cent. of them, have not the slightest intention of deserting their British fellow-citizens."

"The same holds good as to France and Italy. If Russia maintains, as we all hope and pray that she may maintain, a republican form of government, the Jews of Russia will very soon come to feel the same fellowship with all their Russian neighbors that we now have as regards our fellow Americans."

"And yet Zionism is more than a mere dream. Its theories, upon which so much emphasis has been placed during the past generation, contain practical elements which are not above realization. I most sincerely trust that those of my religious faith who are not imbued with this idea will not permit impracticable schemes to make impossible the realization of the good that is in Zionism."

"The Jewish communities in Palestine should be given every opportunity for development. Some Jews now in America will wish to live there permanently; many others, who have not

the slightest intention of surrendering their citizenship in the countries where their children are to live and work, will still wish to have a share in the preservation and development of a free Jewish Palestine."

"But not only Jews are interested in Palestine; every truly educated and liberal minded person in the world will wish to see the ancient Jewish culture given an opportunity for expression and growth. Furthermore—and this is what I beg my Jewish fellow-religionists not to lose sight of for a moment—all Christendom too looks upon Palestine as the Holy Land, in which every believing Christian has a deep religious interest and a right to share."

"What an error it would be, at the very time when the primary message to the world of the Jewish people and their religion should be one of peace, brotherhood and the international mind, to set up a limited nationalist State and thereby appear to create a physical boundary to their religious influence! Let us give the strictly Hebrew culture a better chance than this would imply. Meanwhile nothing should draw our attention from the infinitely greater opportunities of the age in which we live. After the many centuries of restrictions, persecutions and cruelties suffered by our people we are at last sharing the blessings of freedom and of universal fellowship in all the great democratic countries of the world."

Dr. Moskowitz Warns.

Dr. Henry Moskowitz, at present New York Commissioner of Public Markets, discussed the ideals of Zionism in print a few months ago. Dr. Moskowitz is a social scientist whose views are always sure of a respectful hearing anywhere. He went even further than Mr. Morgenthau in pointing out the dangers of undue exuberance about the future service of a Jewish State in Palestine, and qualified his approval of the Zionist endeavor.

"My conclusion," he said, "is that Jewish nationalism as a philosophy of life is reactionary; that it leads to a racial egotism and does not conduce to profound moral and spiritual, but rather to romantic emotions. However, this is not inconsistent with approval of the Jewish cultural centers where those Jews who yearn to preserve and develop their Jewish identity can live if they wish to do so."

All of which seems to reduce to a belief that actual participation in the project of the Jewish State by the mass of the Jewish people, dispersed and affiliated around the world, will be uncertain, and that the State may come down to the position of a mere symbol and shrine, glorified by the loyalty of the Jewish religion and culture.

In any event Zionism is certain to be tried if the war leaves open the opportunity that has been created.

Meanwhile money has been raised in New York for the immediate relief of the Jews in Palestine. It was announced Thursday night that the Jewish War Relief and Camp Welfare Work fund has come within half a million of its \$5,000,000 mark. The war relief part of the fund will be used principally in Palestine and arrangements have been made for its distribution through the United States Consul at Alexandria and by former consuls at Jerusalem and Aleppo, who will go to Palestine to administer the work.

CONCRETE FLOATING DRY DOCKS SOLVE PRESSING WAR PROBLEM

THE millions of tons of seagoing ships now being built will require many new dry docks in order that they may be repaired and kept in good condition. The existing facilities are not sufficient. The question of how they may be increased quickly is therefore of importance.

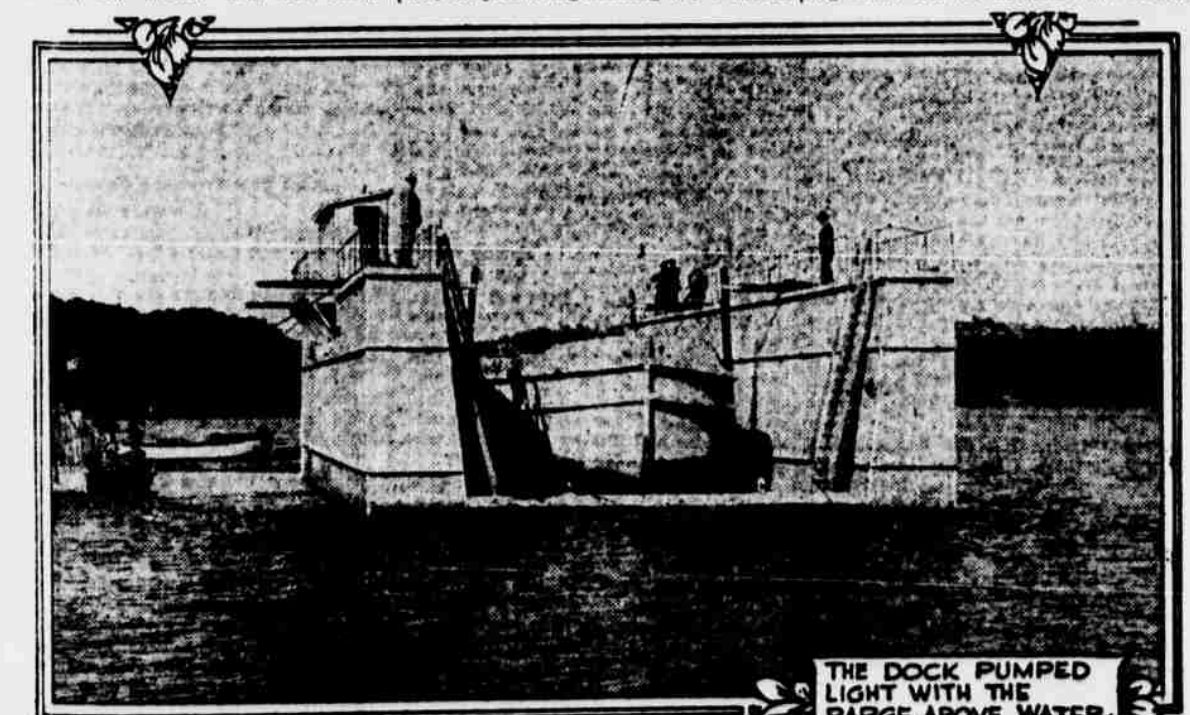
Furthermore it may be assumed that Germany's secret agents in the United States are aware of the vital importance of our marine railways, and not only recently a fire in one of Brooklyn's dry docks pointed toward what may be expected of them in the future. The foe could hamper us greatly if he could destroy any of our existing dry docks. The best insurance

As floating dry docks go, his granite pioneer is not conspicuous because of size. It has a lifting capacity of only twenty-five tons, while there are many steel floating docks in service having a lifting capacity of many thousands of tons. But Mr. Fougner's reinforced concrete dock was designed to perform a special service called for by a firm of yacht builders in Christchurch, and since being turned over to its owners it has discharged its duties in an efficient manner.

To Mr. Fougner it has demonstrated the correctness of the method and principles employed by him in its construction and has convinced him that there is no technical obstacle in the way of producing floating dry docks of

100 per cent. useful and may readily meet the needs of an injured craft when a marine railway or a graving dock of fixed dimensions would not help at all. For instance, suppose the nearest graving dock locked by an inch sufficient breadth at its entrance was so short a foot in length, compared with the beam and the length of a steamer; then the ship would be absolutely shut out from relief. But the floating dock could lift to its full capacity, and that capacity might suffice to raise either the bow or stern of the craft high enough out of water to make whatever repairs might be pressing demanded.

Because of this flexibility, the floating dock can be utilized for certain



THE DOCK PUMPED LIGHT WITH THE BARGE ABOVE WATER.

more against his efforts in this direction will be in providing docking facilities of such a kind and of sufficient number to neutralize his activities. Some authorities believe it would be better to construct floating dry docks rather than either graving docks or marine railways, both of which are peculiarly open to attack and to prolonged and radical impairment. The plan proposed by a Norwegian engineer, Nic. K. Fougner, has therefore special interest at this time.

Recently in this newspaper an account was given of the first ferroconcrete ship to navigate the open seas. That craft was the Norwegian freighter Namsenford, built by Mr. Fougner at his plant in Moss, Norway. But before that era marking vessel was afloat Mr. Fougner launched at the same yard the first reinforced concrete floating dock that has ever been produced. He built it simply because it was quite impossible to get the steel materials ordinarily employed for such a structure and be blamed the way for what may prove a veritable revolution in a vital branch of marine activities.

larger dimensions. In fact, he has greater undertakings in hand and his latest contracts call for two docks of this nature, each capable of lifting 1,000 tons. That is to say, either of these structures would be able to handle a ship of substantially twice that rated displacement.

Of course the dock would not be expected to lift a so-called 14,000-ton craft when loaded, but would be able to deal with a freighter of that gross tonnage when light. As the biggest of the emergency fleet steamers being built are of 8,000 tons and less, Mr. Fougner's 7,000-ton floating docks would be able to lift these cargo carriers out of the water for repair.

The floating dry dock is a peculiarly valuable nautical adjunct in time of war, and under any conditions to far more adaptable than either the marine railway or the graving dock, which is really nothing more than a lined or walled hole in the ground. The floating dock can be towed from point to point, and within some limits it can go to the ship needing it if the craft is unable to reach the dock.

Not only that, but the floating dock

sorts of salvage operations. There have been several cases of this nature in New York harbor in the course of the last eight months. Ships have been beached to keep them from sinking out of sight or laboriously unloaded in order to put them in a state to be handled by the available graving docks. A floating dock of suitable lifting capacity would have saved much of this work and time and have made it practicable to keep the vessels afloat and to repair them where they rested.

A floating dock of ferroconcrete would be fireproof and therefore, not a target for enemy incendiaries. Next, structures of this sort would require a minimum of steel in their fabrication and only that of kinds that can be had in reasonable abundance.

Finally, Mr. Fougner says: "It would be feasible to turn out docks of this sort and of all suitable sizes at a rapid rate, and I am satisfied that in this way, and this way only, would it be possible to supply the dry docking facilities that America's merchant fleet is bound to call for."

Coldproof Vests for Soldiers Being Made of Old Gloves



Stage Women's War Relief Committee. Left to right—Helen Ware, Minnie Dupree, Florence Parker, Mrs. Henry B. Harris, Louise Drew, Chrystal Herne and Frances Starr.

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If your bureau drawer is filled with old gloves and there is a roll of leather soft cushions and leather postcards accumulating dust on some shelf this leather can be put to valuable use for our boys over there. In the

carefully made into windproof jackets for soldiers, sailors and aviators. Here rolls of waste leather may be left, or if you prefer to make your own jackets a pattern may be procured. Already many of the windproof jackets have been sent abroad to our men and our allies. An Italian statesman visiting this country was so

greatly impressed with the ingenious use of waste material that he asked for two models to take back to Italy, one to give to his wife to inspire similar thrift among Italian women and the other to present to the Queen.

Rachel Crothers, chairman of the Stage Women's War Relief, Olive Oliver, Christine Blessing, Mrs. Henry

B. Harris, Daisy Humphreys, Maude Odell, Grace Reals, Mrs. Ollendorf, Jean Chamberlain, Gladys Alberg, Helen Ware, Minnie Dupree, Florence Parker, Louise Drew, Chrystal Herne, Frances Starr, Kathryn Butterfield, May Herbert and Harrie Fumade are among the actresses who are busy utilizing the old gloves.